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WORD OF COUNSEL:

OR,

A Warning to all Young Convinced Friends, or Others whom it may concern, that are called forth to bear a Testimony for the Lord in the Case of TYTHES.

By *Nicholas Homwood.*

Heb. 7. 12. *For the Priesthood being Changed, there is made of Necessity a Change also of the Law.*

Heb. 8. 1, 2. *Now if the things which we have spoken, this is the Sum, We have such an High Priest, who is set on the Right Hand of the Throne of the Majesty in the Heavens; a Minister of the Sanctuary, and of the true Tabernacle which the Lord Pitched, and not Man.*

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A Word of Counſel: or, *A Warning to all Young Convinced Friends, or Others whom it may concern, that are called forth to bear a Teſtimony for the Lord in the Caſe of* Tythes.

DO not flee the *Croſs*, leſt thou miſs of the *Crown*; and have a Care that the Enemy and Adverſary of thy Soul do not betray thee; he will attempt and preſent many things to thy View, to hinder thee from the Work thou art called to: Therefore ſtand upon thy Watch diligently and reſiſt him, and keep to that which makes manifeſt which is Light, leſt thou be beguiled (as I was) by that ſubtil Serpent, which is called the *Devil* and *Satan*.

When the Lord God by the Light of his Son Chriſt Jeſus, had made it manifeſt to me *That Tythe was not to be Payed, and that they that Payed Tythe, and they that Took Tythe, Denyed Chriſt, as to the end of his Coming* who hath put an End to all Shadows whatſoever; for he is the ſubſtance; and where the Subſtance Chriſt Jeſus is truly witneſſed, all Shadows flee away: So there was Life and Death, Good and Evil ſet before me; *if I joyned to that which was Good, Happineſs would attend me, but if to that which was Evil, I ſhould looſe my Reward.* And in theſe my Meditations the Enemy preſents himſelf, and appears in this manner. *Hath God ſet Good and Evil before thee? and hath he ſhewed to thee, that they that pay Tythe therein Deny Chriſt to be Come? Is it not ſaid likewiſe, He that doth not provide for his Family, is worſe then an* Infidel? *And thou haſt many Children, and a great Family to look after, if thou Denyeſt* Tythe, *thou wilt be caſt into Priſon; and what then will become of thy Children? they muſt ſuffer:* This was the voice of the Serpent to me, and I not ſtanding in the Croſs, but hearkning

hearkening to it, was beguiled and betrayed: For then the Conſulting Part got up, and led me into many Reaſonings and Queſtionings, and ſo loſt my Condition, and fell under the Power of the Enemy which deceived me, and I was deceived and paid *Tythe* that Year; but I deſire it may be a *Warning* to all whoſe Hearts the Lord hath opened in any meaſure concerning *Tythe*, and for their ſakes is this given forth: Oh! do not conſult with Fleſh and Blood, neither let the Reaſoning part get up; but ſtand in the Croſs and keep to the firſt Motion that openeth the thing to thee, leſt the Enemy prevail, and ſo bring thee into terrible Bondage and Slavery, as he did me: For in ſo doing, I did greatly increaſe the Anger of the Lord againſt me, and the Terrours of the Almighty took hold of me, which terribly ſhook the Earth, inſomuch that when it was Morning, I longed for Night; and when Night hath come, I deſired Morning; and the Fire of the Lord's Indignation was kindled within me; my Exerciſe was very great, and a Bitter Cup was my Portion, which was a Juſt Recompence of my Reward. And thus it was with me for many Months, and a ſore and grievous Travel I went under for this my *Diſobedience*; and in this my great Diſtreſs, I ſought the Lord with many Tears, and deſired, *That he would not cut off my Life in this Condition; if he did, I ſhould be of all men moſt Miſerable*: And in this my great Diſtreſs and bowed down Condition, I begged of the Lord, *That he would give me another Opportunity, and try me once more*; promiſing, *That I would give up all for the Truth's ſake, and be Faithful to the Death, ſo that I might enjoy the Immortal Crown of Life*: I waiting low in this Condition, in Meekneſs of Spirit, the Lord heard me, and had Compaſſion of his own, which then breathed after him, and gave me my Deſire, that was, *Another Opportunity, that I might bear my Teſtimony againſt that Ever to be denyed Thing of* Tythe: So the time came, and I was freely given up, not looking out at any thing, though my beſetments were many by that old Serpent, which at firſt drew my Mind out; but the Great God gave me Power, as my Eye was kept ſingle to him, againſt all the Wiles of the Enemy,

which were many, both within and without; the Preſence of the Lord was daily with me, and his powerful Arm did mightily uphold me, although he ſuffered the Enemy to try me, and caſt me into Priſon, where I have been this Ten Years; it ſeems to be but as a little Time, by reaſon of that Endleſs Love and Life of God, which he hath manifeſted unto me in his Son Chriſt Jeſus; who hath Refreſhed my Soul day by day, ever ſince that good Reſolution was taken up by me, *To give up all for the Truths ſake*: Six Troubles hath the Lord delivered me out of, and in Seven he will not leave me; although my Exerciſes have been many, it hath been for the Tryal of my Faith and Obedience to God: Happy was the Day that ever I was caſt into Priſon; I have no Cauſe to Repent, *Praiſes endleſs to the Lord God for evermore*, ſaith my Soul; although the Adverſary of my Soul preſented heavy things to my View, *What would become of my Children, if I were caſt into Priſon?* as if there would have been a Want: But I have ſeen by the Light of Chriſt, *That he was a lying Serpent*, for the Lord God hath (ever ſince that Day that my Face was turned *Sion*-ward) bleſſed and preſerved me and mine, and hath given us all things neceſſary for a Comfortable Being in this Life: And therefore, none be diſcouraged, nor look out at any thing without; but give up all in true Obedience to the Lord, let not theſe Outward Periſhing Things hinder better Things to come. For of a Truth God is with all that are faithful, and it is his cauſe we ſtand for and ſuffer for, who will uphold and carry through to the end all thoſe who are freely given up in this Matter againſt all their Oppoſers and Perſecutors whatſoever: This is my Teſtimony, and this I am a Witneſs of in meaſure. Happy are all thoſe who ſuffer for very Conſcience and Chriſt's ſake, they that Suffer for Chriſt's ſake ſhall aſſuredly Reign with him.

Therefore, dear Friends, I leave it upon you all, who are any ways concerned in this Matter, *That there be no Underhand, nor Double-dealing, in any meaſure*; for that wounds the Life of thoſe whoſe Teſtimony ſtands firm, and ſtrengtheneth the Hands of the Enemy; and this I have felt in ſome meaſure, ſince I have been a Priſoner, which conſtrains me thus to write:

There

Therefore, be Careful for time to come, and eaſe me of my Burden, and bear a Faithful and publick Teſtimony againſt that Spirit of Antichriſt, which rules in the Hearts of the Children of Diſobedience: I ſay, *Fall not under any thing which Diſhonoureth the Lord God; and have a care of Grieving his People; but be Valiant for the Truth upon Earth, and Great will be your Reward.*

But happily ſome may ſay, *Mine is to an* Impropriator, *and therefore I cannot ſee ſo clearly to the End of it as to the* Prieſt.

My Friend, This was my State and Condition for ſome time; I paid to the Prieſt and Impropriator, and the Prieſt I could and did Deny ſome time before I could ſee clearly to the End of the other, by reaſon of the Vail that then covered my Heart, and darkned my Underſtanding, ſo that I could not ſee clearly to the End of thoſe things which Chriſt had put an End to, and waiting Love again on Chriſt the Son of God, the Vail was taken off, and then I ſaw clearly and perfectly, *The One was to be Denyed as well as the Other; and if I paid the Impropriator, I might as well pay the Prieſt*; for the Ground is One in both, it is as really *Tythe* to the Impropriator, as to the Prieſt; and it was *Tythe* I could not Uphold, and great Cauſe I had for it, becauſe in ſo doing *I Denyed the Lord of Life*; and Chriſt ſaith, *He that Denyeth me before Men, him will I Deny before my Father which is in Heaven:* Therefore I adviſe all Friends, That they ſtand Clear in this thing; for, *ſuch as you ſow, ſuch muſt you reap.* And this is my Teſtimony for the Lord God, *They that Uphold any One, are guilty of Both.*

This Teſtimony of N. H. *being Reviewed by ſome Friends, who well knew Him, his Integrity, and Manifold patient ſufferings, thought fit to have it Reprinted, together with the following Epiſtle, as a ſhort Poſtſcript of his ſufferings.*

DEarly beloved Friends, Brethren and Siſters, in that which is Eternal do I ſalute you; and in that dwell, for in that there

there is ſafety, go not forth into the many things but keep to the one thing that is moſt needful, and as you keep to it, it will keep down all that which is contrary to the Lord God, and let the meek Spirit of the Lamb Chriſt Jeſus be your guide, your Leader and your Commander, and my dear Friends keep your Meetings in the fear of God, and loſe no opportunities that may be; have a care that your outward buſineſs do not deprive you of better things, for I know right well by good experience, that if your Hearts be not kept above all outward things, you will loſe many opportunities which otherwiſe may be attained to; for it is the ſubtilty of the Devil, which is the Enemy of your Souls to preſent the loſs or hindrance of many things when you ſhould go to a Meeting, but as your Hearts be freely given up to wait upon the Lord, and to be ſerviceable in his work, I know right-well there will be way made for you, and no loſs thereby will befal you, but great gainers will you be in the End; therefore be faithful to the Lord God, and let not your minds be incumbred with outward things and the cares of this Life; for my Friends by taking thought, you cannot add one Cubit to your ſtature, therefore make good proviſion for that which is Eternal, and in your Meetings be watchful and careful that the Enemy do not beguile you and draw your minds into dulneſs and drouſineſs, inſomuch that you may miſs that which you may never attain to more, therefore rouſe up the Spirit of your minds and preſs on to the mark of the priſe of the high Calling of God, and that you may obtain the End of all your Travel and waiting of your obedience; and the end of all is, that you may dwell in God and he in you, and be gathered up to him to be ever with Him: And my dear Friends ſtand in the daily Croſs amongſt whom you are placed. There be many Eyes open at you, therefore great need is there that you walk as wiſe Men and Women, and that your Lights ſhine before others, that they ſeeing your good Converſation may glorifie the great God of Heaven who is God over all, bleſſed for evermore: And my Friends, I having by the goodneſs of God and through the aboundings of his Love to me, paſſed through theſe things in Meaſure, I am free to lay them before you, and tho

I am at a diſtance from you in the Body, yet am I one in the Spirit with you all, who are faithful to the Lord God, and through the goodneſs of God I am well ſatisfied with my portion in that it is fallen into a good Land, and can rejoyce in that I am counted worthy to ſuffer for the Teſtimony of Jeſus, where the goodneſs of the Lord is felt daily to the refreſhing of my Soul.

Maidſton Priſon 3 day.
5 Month. 1672. *Nicholas Homwood.*

IN the 12th. Month, and in the year 1662. He was Committed to the County Goal of *Canturbury*, becauſe for Conſcience ſake he could not ſwear, and there continued ſeveral Months.

In the 7th. Month in the year 1663. He was taken at a Meetting at *Hith*, in the County of *Kent*, and Committed to Priſon by the then Major of the ſaid Town, where he remained ſeveral weeks a Priſoner.

In the year 1664. He was again Committed to the County Goal of *Canterbury*, by Sir *Ed. Deering* Juſtice (ſo called), becauſe for Conſcience ſake he could not bear Arms, and for that Cauſe remained Priſoner Ten days.

The 25th. 9th. Month 1665. He was again Committed to the County Goal of *Canterbury*, by *Ed. Wildiſh* Impropriator, where he remained about 12 Months, and then was by his Adverſary aforeſaid, removed to the *Kings-Bench*, where he remained a Priſoner to his dying day. And while he was a Priſoner, for ſeveral years the Impropriator took away his Corn in an unreaſonable manner.

IT is my Faith, I do believe,
That *Tythe* muſt wholely down,
Becauſe the Lord of Life is come,
Who'l raze them to the Ground:

There-

Therefore let all ſtand clear in it;
For long they cannot ſtand,
The Cry of the Oppreſſed has been ſuch
The Time is near at hand.
The Lord regard hath to his Seed,
Whoſe Breathings are ſo ſtrong,
That cry aloud to him for help,
To eaſe them of their Wrong.
So none be Faithleſs in this Thing;
For long they can't indure:
The Time doth ſpend, and waſte apace,
Of which thou may'ſt be ſure,
That down they muſt even to the Duſt,
The Lord will put an end to them,
Let none therefore be offended,
For low heel bring them with great ſhame,
But as for us, who have ſuffered thus,
In this we can Rejoyce,
That of all Families in the Earth,
Of us the Lord made Choice,
To ſtand as Witneſſes for him,
Who is our Lord and King:
We cannot flee the Croſs therein,
But Praiſes to him ſing,
Who is our Strength and Stay and all,
Our Helper he is ſtill;
And we are freely given up
To be Subject to his Will.

From the *Kings-Bench* Priſon in the 9th. Month, 1675.

By One who is a Lover of the Truth, and made willing to Suffer for the ſame, and to follow the Lamb whitherſoever he goeth,

Nicholas Homwood.

THE END.